Registration Authority for Cable Television Network

804. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has requested the Union Government to make officers authorised by the State Government as Registration Authority for Cable Television Network as per Government of Andhra Pradesh Notification *vide* G.O. Ms. No. 57 Home (Genl.-A) dated 6th February, 1996 authorising Commissioner of Police in Hyderabad city and Collectors in the Districts as Authorised Officers who have Quasi-Judicial powers, to exercise the powers under various provisions of the Notified Act;

(b) if so, whether Government would take early favourable decision in this regard; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) to (c) Section 2(a) of the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 provides for notification of "authorized Officer" which include DM/SDM/Commissioner of Police in their local limits of jurisdiction. Authorized officer can exercise powers under Section 11 and Section 19 of the Cable Act. Section 2(h) of the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 provides for notification of an authority to perform the function of the Registering authority under the Act. Under Section 2(h) the Head Post Master of a Head Post Office has been declared as the Registering Authority for his territorial jurisdiction. However, the issue of notifying District Magistrates or Sub-Divisional Magistrates or Police Commissioners as registering authority for Cable Operators, in place of the Head Post Master was raised by some States during the 25th SIMCON (State Information Ministers' Conference) meeting held on 15-16th April, 2005. This issue is being considered alongwith other recommendations of Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) on broadcasting and distribution of TV channels.

Uplinking Policy for TV Channels

805. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Cabinet has decided to set up a

Group of Ministers to study the uplinking policy for TV channels proposed by the Ministry;

(b) whether any representation has been received for carrying out a study of uplinking policy;

(c) if so, the details of representations and the persons/organizations from which such representations have been received; and

(d) whether the uplinking policy is permitted through Ku-Band?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) Based on the recommendations of the Group of Ministers (GoM) constituted to examine the Note for Cabinet on Review of Uplinking Policy, the Cabinet approved the proposal in its meeting on 20.10.2005 and thereafter the revised and consolidated guidelines were issued on 2.12.2005.

(b) and (c) No such representation has been received since 2.12.2005.

(d) Uplinking in Ku-Band has been permitted under the revised uplinking guidelines issued on 2.12.2005.

Advertisement of liquor and tobacco in electronic and print media

†806. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the advertisement of liquor and tobacco are being openly displayed and printed in electronic/print media in violation of Cable Television Network (Regulation) Act, 1995 and section 13, sub-section 2(c) of Press Council Act, 1978 and the rules formulated under the same; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to ban the said advertisements completely?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) and (b) No, Sir. All the advertisements/programmes of satellite TV channels transmitted or retransmitted through the Cable Television Network are required to adhere

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.